fields of mutual interest, through activities which may include exchange of scientific and technological information, joint research projects, exchange of scientists and technical experts, convening of seminars and meetings and other forms of scientific and technological cooperation as may be mutually agreed. Cooperative activities would be subject to the laws and regulations in each country.

US Stand on MTCR

1044. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States have decided not to support development or acquisition of space launch vehicles in countries outside the Missile Technology Control Regime; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All dual use items, as interpreted by USA, which can be used in the development of rocket technology, even for peaceful applications, are banned for export. The Government of India, being fully aware of this situation, is committed to building self reliance in this area.

Indian Claim for Damages for Breach of Cryogenic Deal by Russia

1045. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to claim damage for unilateral breach of contract by Russia in respect of the Cryogenic rocket engine deal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Russian Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

NESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Consequent to the declaration of force majeure clause, a Russian team has arrived in India for discussions on the future course of action with respect to the Agreement.

Imminent Danger to Earth from Comets

1046. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Earth under threat from comets" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 25th October, 1993;

(b) whether, according to an eminent astrophysicist of the Nehru Planetarium, Bombay, the earth is under the constant danger of being hit space-borne objects; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A number of comets and meteorites approach the earth and at times come very close to it. Apart from these heavenly bodies, smaller particles and objects having sizes upto about few centimeters constantly enter the earth's

atmosphere which acts as a shield and these objects burn off due to atmospheric friction. However, there are objects of diameters between 1—100 km (in the category of comets and meteorites) which come close to the earth even though the probability of such objects actually colliding with the earth is small. It is difficult to predict the course of such bodies and hence there is always a potential danger from such bodies which may hit the earth.

(c) Global Astronomical Observations, including in India are carried out to constantly keep watch on the trajectories and orbits of larger bodies and objects. Optical telescopes and radar networks are being used globally to determine the orbits of space objects particularly those with large dimensions. Proposals by a number of scientists to devise rocket borne detonators which be launched towards an approaching body of larger size so that it could be broken up into pieces and thus minimising the risk of its hitting the earth are under constant dscussion, even though so far all the proposals being thought of are not only very expensive but also do not appear to be practical.

12.00 NOON

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Statement by Minister correcting answer to question. Shrimati Margaret Alva.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting the relpy given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th August, 1993 to Unstarred Question No. 4360 regarding empanelment of the 1962 batch of I.A.S. officers. (Placed in library. *See* No. 4697/93)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Madam, in answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the Unstarred Question No. 4360 answered on 26-8-1993, the last sentence i.e. "The extant policy provides for a review every two years", may be substituted with the following sentence:—

> "Officers who are not considered suitable for empanelment at the initial assessment, should be reviewed along with the officers of the subsequent batch, when the subsequent batch is considered for empanelment."

श्री सिकदर बख्त : सादर साहिबा, मैं . .

†[सभापति महोदय, दिल्ली शहर सिकंदर बख्त : सदर साहिबा, मैं . . . .]

उपसभापति : पहले पेपर्स ले कर लें ।

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1990-91) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi Rae Bareli and related papers.

II. Notification of the National Airports Authority, New Delhi.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli, for the year 1990-91, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Statement by Government accepting above Report.

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†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.